

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) took a strong stand for the thousands of Texans and Americans whose livelihoods were devastated by the \$7.2 billion Stanford Financial Group Ponzi scheme.

Congressman Rodriguez sent a letter Thursday to Mary Schapiro, Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, urging the commission to “heavily consider immediately initiating a liquidation of Stanford Group Company under the Securities Investor Protection Act (SIPA) and order the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) to pay claims to customers of Stanford Group Company (SGC), an SEC-registered broker dealer and SIPC member.”

The letter, co-signed by 7 U.S. Senators and 34 Members of Congress, including Congressman Lamar Smith (TX-21), agrees with a recently released report from the SEC’s Office of the Inspector General that contends the SEC should have taken action as far back as 1997, when it first became aware of fraudulent activity on the part of the fictitious investing group.

Barney Hallman, a resident of Alpine and a member of the Stanford Victims Coalition, said he was grateful for Congressman Rodriguez’s leadership after 13 years of failure on the part of one government agency after another.

“When Congressman Rodriguez learned that we had been devastated by this crime and saw we were being treated as nothing more than collateral damage, he did something about it,” Hallman said. “Now even the members of Congress recognize that the SEC should order SIPC coverage for Stanford’s victims. I hope the SEC finally gets the message. We needed people to do the right thing and champion our plight; now we have some.”

Some estimates put the number of the number of Texas victims at 1,290, with a loss estimate of at least \$582 million worth of investments.

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